

EDITED BY
WM. M. OVERTON, CH. MAURICE SMITH,
AND BEVERLEY TUCKER.

MARCH 17, 1855.

All letters on business should be addressed to "The Sentinel Office," Washington.

O. H. P. STREX, is our authorized agent for collecting accounts due this office, and for obtaining new subscribers in Virginia.

SUMMARY OF THE FOREIGN NEWS.

The full details of the news brought by the steamer Pacific and Africa will be found under their respective heads in our present number, and will prove undoubtedly quite interesting to our readers. The main features to be gathered from them may be divided into the following heads:

1st. The breaking up of the Palmerston ministry—after a short life of ten days, and the withdrawal of Messrs. James Graham, Gladstone, and Sidney Herbert. This ministerial crisis is attributed to Mr. Roebuck's motion for a committee of inquiry into the mismanagement of the war. The aforesaid members who consented to remain under Lord Palmerston's premiership, taking this motion as an affront, have retired. The premier left alone by this movement, has striven to form a new cabinet, the list of which we publish. A peculiarity of the new combination is the acceptance by Lord John Russell of the colonial secretaryship, an act which naturally puts his mission to Vienna at an end. It is rumored, on the other hand, that the overbearing demeanor of Lord Palmerston among his colleagues has determined the crisis. It will be seen that M. G. C. Lewis, a contributor to the *Edinburgh Review*, has been entrusted with the seal of the exchequer, and that Lord Elgin, late governor of Canada, and an eminent statesman, is spoken of for the Presidency of the Board of Control.

The composition of the new ministry belongs, or at least two-thirds, to the opinions represented by the Premier, and gives him the advantage over his antagonists, the Peelites, still represented in the cabinet by Mr. Canning and others. It must be added that the anti-aristocratic articles of the *London Times* have had a strong influence in the crisis. They have done more harm to the governing classes than all the combinations of the chartists, and all the declamation of the radicals.

It is in the midst of these ministerial difficulties that several riots have broken out in the manufacturing cities. Nottingham, Liverpool, London, Manchester, and Birmingham, have witnessed bakers' shops demolished, and gangs of starving laborers parading the streets. It is said that the weather is severer than ever, that snow continues to fall, and that railways are blocked up, labor scarce, and food dear.

2d. The second striking feature of the foreign news, is the reported determination of the Emperor Napoleon to visit the Crimea in person in order to change the plan of attack, the effect of which would be to connect the French with the English lines by means of four additional batteries. This work completed, the Allies would be able to commence the fire with four hundred-pieces of artillery. According to the Parisian papers the Emperor would start from Paris on the 7th, and reach the Crimea on the 18th of March. The Council of Regency composed of Messrs. Troplong, Morin, Bazache, and, perhaps, of General Vaillant, the present Minister of War, are to have the management of the public business under the presidency of Prince Jerome, during the absence of the Emperor. This resolution of Napoleon has thrown so much consternation among the Allies that it is rumored the Queen of England has sent a letter to Napoleon, through the officious agency of Lord Russell, begging him not to expose his august person to the dangers of such an excursion. It is, however, believed by many persons that the French Emperor is not yet decided, though his intention seems to lean that way. We give as the best view of the impression produced by this resolution, the following translation extracted from the Paris correspondence of the *Courier des Etats Unis*:

"Mr. Fould declared to him (Emperor) that the day he declared a fall of five francs would take place on the Bourse. 'Tant pis,' said the Emperor, 'I am not Emperor for the business of the Bourse, but to govern for the people.' The horses have been bought for the Imperial retinue, adds Mr. G. The emperors have been established. The Emperor will go as far as Constantinople, and with her, as companions, the Countess of Montebello and the Baroness of Piennes. The funds have taken alarm; the people, like children in leading strings, began to put at the threatened abuses of their head; many of the organs of public opinion, who are known to be unfavorable to his regime, become the loudest amongst the remonstrants; and at this very moment there is the strongest possible agitation existing at the thought of losing one whom at least half of France, a few years ago, was laughed at as a great goose."

A circumstance omitted by the correspondent is, that the discontented parties have availed themselves of his pretended departure to indulge in political disturbances, the extent of which has not yet transpired. We only know that many persons of distinction were arrested for having been implicated in the plot, the meaning of which is kept secret.

3d. "The news from the Crimea is also exceedingly interesting. Considerable reinforcements and supplies of provisions had been received by the besieged, the weather was becoming more mild, and the condition of the English army was materially improved. General Liprandi, with forty thousand men, had, on the 17th of February, suddenly attacked the newly arrived Turks at Euphrat, under the command of Omer Pasha. After an action of some hours the Russians were compelled to retire with five hundred men *hors de combat*, whilst the Turks lost one hundred and fifty men and had Selim Pasha killed. The British men-of-war lying in the harbor protected the Turkish flanks in good style, and shelled Liprandi's soldiers with disastrous effect. The allied fleets of England and France, intended to operate in the Baltic during the spring, will be on a scale of immense magnitude, England alone resolving to send out one hundred ships and about two thousand three hundred guns; whilst France pledges herself to furnish one hundred and fifty steam war ships and army transports. In the meantime the Czar has issued a ukase, calling the entire male population of his territories to arms, and from all parts

of his kingdom the din of naval and military preparation resounds. It is said that he has now a force of three hundred thousand men in the Crimea, so that a great, and, perhaps, decisive battle may be looked for, provided the peace negotiations do not proceed satisfactorily at Vienna. The Czar has also declared war against Sardinia. The *London Daily News* publishes a letter from Mazzini condemning the aggression of Sardinia to the Western alliance as injurious to the honor and interests of England."

4th. But among all this news, none is so important as that of the death of the Czar. This report has come so suddenly upon us that we have hesitated a while in crediting it, notwithstanding the character of authenticity it seems to carry with it. Also shall we postpone all comments upon it until further information. Among other miscellaneous news we see a tendency on the part of Prussia to join the Allies. We see also the intention of Louis Napoleon to have the body of his cousin, the Duke of Reichstadt, the son of Napoleon the Great, conveyed to France, and buried at the *Hôtel des Invalides*, close to his father. The French Press is still presenting as probable, the restoration of Poland. Influential meetings have been held at Bath and Birmingham in favor of the reconstruction of that country. It is even said that Queen Victoria has declared that "it was a mistake to go to the Crimea, and that Russia should have been attacked elsewhere. It would then not be extraordinary to see the French army, now encamped at Boulogne, cross the Rhine on the return of Louis Napoleon from the Crimea, admitting it to be very doubtful that he will go there."

MAIL ROUTES ACROSS THE PLAINS. We learn from the *San Francisco News* that a movement has been set on foot in the California Legislature, to obtain a restitution of the excess of postage which has been paid by the citizens of that State. The law fixes the charge of carrying letters any distance under three thousand miles at three cents, if prepaid. The Californians contend, says the *News*, "that the distance from the Eastern States, overland, to San Francisco, does not exceed three thousand miles; and that it is the duty of the Government to transmit the mails by the nearest route, if practicable. If the department chooses to select a circuitous way, and thereby exceed the legal distance, it is its own affair. It has no right to ask the people of this State to pay them double the tax, because of its own failure to take advantage of the nearest route. To assume any other position, it is contended, and allow the Government to choose what route it may please, would give the right to send our letters around the globe—to forward them via the Cape of Good Hope—and call upon us to pay the additional expense."

"The movers in this matter, then, lay it down as the correct rule, that the mail cannot depart from the direct route, to travel a circuitous one, unless the nearest route is impracticable—or at least, unless a great saving of time is effected. The department cannot pretend that the overland route is, or has been, impracticable. So much light has lately been thrown upon the feasibility of transmitting the mails upon it by the agitation of the proposed wagon road, that such a position could not be sustained a moment, if attempted. The only remaining excuse is, that the conveyance upon steamers, by the Isthmus route, was preferred, on account of its adding to the speed or certainty of transmitting the mails. Both of these positions are disputed. It is claimed that exactly contrary is the case. And another fact is urged with effect. As long ago as 1851, responsible parties, now in this State, proposed to convey the mails by the overland route, and offered to give satisfactory security for its speedier and safer transmission than by the steamers. These proposals the Government failed to consider. And, now, it is asked, after our people have pointed out the nearer way, and prayed to be allowed to carry their mails by it, because the Government chooses to continue sending it three thousand miles miles out of the way, ought it to ask them to pay her a large gratuity annually for so doing? It is obvious enough that her bad management compels us to wait two or three days longer for our letters, without having to pay twice as much for this inconvenience."

It seems to us that these complaints of the people of California are not destitute of foundation. Indeed, Congress has recognized the necessity and importance of establishing post routes across the continent; but whether the service authorized by the establishment of those routes has been properly performed we cannot undertake to say. We understand, however, that a portion of one of those routes, and of the one which we believe the best, has thus far been unattended to. We trust, however, that this oversight, omission, or delay, will be speedily remedied.

Congress has authorized three routes across the continent.

1. The northern route from Independence, Missouri, to the Salt Lake, and thence to Sacramento city.
2. The middle route from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe and Albuquerque, and thence to Woodville in Tulare county, California.
3. The southern route from Texas to Frontera near El Paso on the Rio Grande, and thence to Los Angeles in California.

The first or northern route has been in operation about three years, and the second or middle route has been in operation as far as Santa Fe for a considerable time; the mails being carried once a month. The extension of this line from Albuquerque across to California by the Indian town of Tuni is now advertised to run weekly. The third or southern route has been in operation as far as the Rio Grande for several years, and the Post Office Department is authorized to extend it from the Rio Grande to Los Angeles. We trust that this extension will be promptly made, so that the complaints of California may be deprived of any just foundation.

These mail routes will be productive of much good. They will make us better acquainted with the country lying between the Mississippi valley and the Pacific coast. They will show very soon where the great line of communication must be made. They will at once establish an express line so much desired, and test the practicability of carrying the mails from the Mississippi valley across the conti-

nent more expeditiously than by either of the Isthmus routes at present used.

We feel a good deal of solicitude about this matter, and we are especially anxious to see arrangements made to carry the mail through to California on the southern route. We are firmly convinced that with a fair trial it will prove the best route. The difficulties which formerly existed on it have been removed by the recent purchase of a part of Sonora. It is shorter in distance, easier to travel, and will accommodate more people than either of the other routes, whilst it is not liable to obstructions from the influences of the climate.

The results of the Pacific Railroad surveys prove that the line from Texas through El Paso is the practicable route for the road, although it received but little of the appropriation made for those surveys, and was the last upon which surveying parties were placed. This route should not be neglected any further, and we presume that the Post Office Department will see that it has something like a fair chance. The post road from Frontera westward will at once test its merits, and it will accommodate a considerable population between the Rio Grande and California, which now have no mail facilities whatever. We know that, independent of the present population south of the Gila, a considerable emigration is going there. The route will pass through a valuable country abounding in mines and agricultural resources. Let the service, then, which Congress has authorized be placed upon the route, so that the capacities of a valuable district, but recently added to the confederacy, may be made known, and that the southern Pacific Railroad line may have at last a fair chance, and so that everything may be accomplished which the law allows to satisfy the demands of the people of California for a shorter route than those by Panama and Nicaragua, which impose, as they say, extra postages upon them.

CIVILIZATION AND KNOWLEDGE. The civilized world has for years found great fault with China and Japan for shutting themselves in uninvaded seclusion and denying access to all strangers. It was universally agreed that by so doing they violated the comity that should prevail among the brotherhood of nations—because they inhibited those commercial, social, religious, and national interchanges, essential to civilization and the development of the resources of the world. As in every enlightened nation laws in restraint of trade are odious, so in the great court of civilized nations, laws in restraint of international interchange are likewise deemed odious.

It matters not what may have been the cause or causes of the long isolation, the lone seclusion and the obstinate reserve maintained by those two nations; their policy was an offense against the world, civilization, and religion. It was universally held to be so. Their reason, no doubt, was that their rulers and despots saw the inferiority of the two races, and also saw that if the vigorous and many ideas of stronger races should be introduced, their despotic power would be at an end. Hence they laid a stringent and inexorable embargo on intercourse with other nations.

Old times happen in this world, and strange coincidences sometimes turn up. One such has occurred in this country. Just as we have, after much patience, soft persuasions, and many efforts, succeeded in establishing intercourse and inter-communication between our country and China and Japan, a new party has sprung up among us, which maintains the self-same proscription, secret, barbarous, exclusive doctrines of these two countries. This party proposes that we shall exclude or disfranchise all foreigners. They pay a poor compliment to honesty. That is open. They are secret and clandestine. They pay a poorer compliment to the American nation. They practically declare that this American nation is weak and imbecile, and that if it suffers foreigners (who are oppressed at home) to come here, and after naturalization, under our present laws, to vote, that our intellects and our characters are so much weaker than theirs that they will rule America. They declare, in effect, THAT WE ARE THE WEAKER RACE!

This is the obsolete Chinese and Japanese notion. Just as it has become obsolete in China and Japan, the self-styled "Patriots of America" seek to introduce it here. Are we a race of men, or are we babies? Have we intellect, character, and strength, or are we idiots, profligates and paralytics? Do we, in this, the enlightened nineteenth century, require a Chinese wall to protect us from the inroads of foreigners? Is the great light of our liberty to be "hid under a bushel" or to be "a city set upon a hill?"

Language cannot convey the deep contempt that we feel for the bastard organization that teaches such humiliating doctrines.

We are of the Anglo-Saxon race. We are a free and a great people. We have founded a great Republic. We founded that Republic against the fixed ideas of the whole world. We have preserved it in spite of resistance from abroad and resistance at home, and now, when it is firmly established, a miserable, sneaking, clandestine party, a SPOILS PARTY, has sprung up in our midst which says that we cannot maintain it because a stronger race, or stronger races will pour into our domain and control us. It is a low farce and a miserable folly. Americans have always ruled America, and they always will.

\$250 REWARD.—The "Union Building," in Taylor's Building, corner E and 13th streets, was last night burglariously entered, and a large amount of property destroyed and stolen, and attempts made to fire the building.

The above reward will be paid at the clerk's office of the "Union," on the arrest and conviction of the burglar, thief and incendiary.

MARCH 17—21

GREAT ATTRACTION. PREMIUM DAGUERRETYPE taken at STEWART'S Gallery, Pennsylvania avenue, over Galt's Jewelry Store.

Pictures in best quality of cases from 50 cents and upwards.

We invite the public to call and judge for themselves.

MARCH 17—21

HOUSE WANTED.—The advertiser desires to engage a small and convenient tenement of six or seven rooms, located upon the north side of Pennsylvania avenue. Rent not to exceed \$250. A good tenant and prompt payment.

Address D. Box 152, City Post Office.

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CROW QUILLS.—Further supply of the bundles just received.

TAYLOR & MAURY'S

Local and Personal.

Arrival of the San Jacinto.

PHILADELPHIA, March 16.—The United States steamer San Jacinto, latest from Key West, is reported below.

The Ohio River, &c.

CINCINNATI, March 16.—There is sixteen feet of water in the channel. Business is generally active. Eastern exchange has advanced to 2 prem.

Honored Arrest of Baker.

PHILADELPHIA, March 16.—It is rumored here that Baker, the murderer of Pool, was arrested this morning at the Morrisania, railroad depot. Should it prove correct, information will be transmitted.

Second Dispatch.

The report is unfounded. It arose from the train being searched on suspicion of Mr. Baker being among the passengers.

New York Markets.

NEW YORK, March 16.—Cotton is firm, with an upward tendency.

Wool is unchanged, with a moderate demand at previous rates—sales of 3,000 barrels. Southern is firm—sales of 2,750 barrels, at \$9 12 to \$9 57 1/2.

Wheat is a trifle lower—sales of 12,000 bushels. Corn is unchanged—sales of Western mixed at 96 cents.

Pork is firm and upward.

Beef is unchanged, with a moderate demand at previous rates.

Lard is downward and dull.

Whisky is lower—sales of Ohio at 30 1/2 cents.

From the San Antonio Ledger of March 3d.

SANTA FE AND CALIFORNIA. Giddings' train, in charge of Captain R. F. Crane, arrived on Wednesday with the U. S. mail from Santa Fe, by which we have received the following:

SAN ANTONIO, March 1, 1855. Mr. Editor: Before leaving the head of the Limpia, I learned, on reliable authority, that Captain Henry Stanton, of the 1st dragoons, while on an expedition to the White Mountains, was killed, and also two soldiers—Lieutenant Stargess, of the same regiment, went out a few days ago, and killed three Indians about the same place.

I also learned that the Government of Mexico had called on the Secretary for 3,000 mounted volunteers.

The settlement near Bent's Fort, on the Independence road, containing some 42 persons, had been entirely exterminated by the Eulaws.

Major Cunningham, paymaster, stationed at El Paso, had been killed in his office, and the key taken from his pocket, and his safe robbed of \$40,000. The perpetrators are supposed to be Americans, and some clue had been obtained of them.

A portion of Major Simpson's command have gone on an expedition to the White Mountains. His depot is twenty miles northeast from the El Paso road, near Eagle Springs. Captain Elliot commanded company A of the rifles, and Captain Travis, Texas volunteers, had, a few days previous to my leaving, gone on a scout to a mountain northeast from Presidio del Norte, called Las Chaves, where it was said a large body of Comanches and Muscogullos had concentrated.

We met Lieutenant Mechling and party leaving the head of the Rio Grande on the 24th, and saw a party of the U. S. army, four miles below, and W. Smith's train, all well.

On the night of the 17th of February we encountered a most terrible snow storm, and had to build fires to keep the mules from freezing. The snow fell to the depth of about sixteen inches.

The same paper publishes a letter from Captain Henry, of the "Texas Rangers," to the Governor of Chihuahua, making an offer of the services of himself and company to fight the Indians, for stated wages. The letter says:

"We are armed in the best manner for Indian fighting, and mounted on the best horses that Texas affords, and the men are perfectly acquainted with the mode of Indian warfare. You need not have the least doubt of the purity of my motives, when I inform you that I am so connected with your native blood by marriage and otherwise, that I could not but in any manner be in a manner disreputable to the Mexican nation, or more particularly to the dignity of the State over which your excellency has the honor to preside."

TO OFFICERS, SOLDIERS, SEAMEN, &c. OF ALL WARS, THEIR WIDOWS AND MINOR CHILDREN.

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SHIRTS MADE TO ORDER.—STEVENS & BROWN'S Hotel, is prepared to make shirts to measure, and warrants them in all cases to fit. Gents troubled with bad fitting shirts can be suitably attended to.

STEVENS & BROWN'S Hotel.

Thomas Brown, T. H. Winter, or T. H. Winter, for further particulars.

THE UNDERSIGNED offer their services to prosecute claims of every description before Congress and the different departments of the government.

Office on 14th street, opposite Willard's Hotel, near 2d St.

BROWN & WINTER.

The Methodist Protestant Conference, now in session in Alexandria, Virginia, has elected the Rev. J. W. Everest its president, in the place of the late Rev. Dr. J. S. Reese.

Telegraphic.

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